To raiſe a preſent ſumme ; therefore goe forth,
Trie what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
That ſhall be rackt even to the uttermoſt,
To furniſh thee to *Belmount* to faire *Portia*.
Goe preſently enquire, and ſo will I,
Where money is, and I no queſtion make
To have it of my truſt, or for my ſake. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia* with her wating-woman *Nerriſſa*.

Por. By my troth *Nerriſſa*, my little body is aweary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, ſweet Madam, if your miſeries were in the ſame aboundance as your good fortunes are : and yet for ought I ſee, they are as ſick that ſurfeit with too much, as they that ſtarve with nothing ; it is no meane happines therefore to be ſeated in the meane, ſuperfluitie comes ſooner by white haires, but competencie lives longer.

Por. Good ſentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well follow'd.

Por. If to do were as eaſie as to know what were good to do, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes Pallaces, it is a good divine that followes his owne inſtructions, I can eaſier teach twenty vvhat were good to be done, then to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching : the braine may deviſe lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a cold decree, ſuch a hare is madnes the youth, to skip ore the meſhes of good counſell the cripple ; but this reaſoning is not in the faſhion to chooſe me a husband, ô mee the word chooſe, I may neither chooſe who I would, nor refuſe who I diſlike, ſo is the wil of a lyving daughter curbd by the will of a dead father : is it not harde *Nerriſſa*, that I cannot chooſe one, nor refuſe none.

Ner. Your Father was ever vertuous, and holy men at their death have good inſpirations, therefore the lottry that he hath deviſed in theſe three cheſts of gold, ſilver, and leade, vvhereof who chooſes his meaning chooſes you, will no doubt never be choſen by any rightly, but one who you ſhall rightly love : But vvhat warmth is there in your affection towards any of theſe Princely ſuters that are already come ?

Por.

Por. I pray thee over-name
will deſcribe them, and accor
my affection.

Ner. Firſt there is the *Neo*

Por. I, that's a colt indeed
his horſe, and he makes it a grea
parts, that he can ſhooe him hi
die his mother plaid falſe with

Ner. Then is there the Cou

Por. He doth nothing but fr
will not have me, chooſe; he h
feare hee will prove the weepi
old, being ſo full of unmannerl
ther be married to a Deathſ-hea
to either of theſe : God defend

Ner. How ſay you by the Fr

Por. God made him, and th
truth I know it is a ſin to be a m
horſe better than the *Neopolitan*
than the Count *Palentine*, he is e
ſing, he ſtraight fals a capering,
dow. If I ſhould marry him, I
if he would deſpiſe me, I wou
to madneſſe, I ſhall never requi

Ner. What ſay you then to
of *England* ?

Por. You know I ſay nothin
me, nor I him: he hath neither L
will come into the Court, and
worth in the Engliſh : he is a p
can converſe with a dumbe ſho
he bought his doublet in *Italy*, h
net in *Germanie*, and his behavi

Ner. What thinke you of th

Por. That he hath a neighbo
rowed a box of the eare of the E
pay him againe when he was a
came his Suretie, and ſeal'd und

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